

## Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8089

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7123

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, IR

SUBJ: FRG/IRAN AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 171573 (B) TEHRAN 6854, (C) 75 STATE 094541

1. REFTEL A MAKES THE FIRM POINT THAT THE USG IS NOT CONSIDERING PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT FOR A REPROCESSING PLANT IN IRAN IN ANY CONTEXT AND THAT WE BELIEVE IRAN UNDERSTANDS THIS. I AM CONCERNED THAT THIS MAY NOT BE PRECISELY THE CASE AND WISH TO ALERT YOU IN THE EVENT THE SUBJECT ARISES DURING YOUR VISIT HERE EARLY NEXT MONTH. IT IS, OF COURSE, CORRECT THAT OUR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF REPROCESSING HAVE FOCUSED LARGELY ON THE QUESTIONS OF REPROCESSING US-SUPPLIED NUCLEAR FUEL OR FUEL DERIVED FROM US REACTORS WITHOUT OUR UNDERTAKING ANY EXPLICIT COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT. INDEED, THE RECORD OF OUR DISCUSSION WITH DR. AKBAR ETEMAD, PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN, DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, INDICATES THAT WE STATED THAT WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE IRANIANS UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE FORECLOSED THIS POSSIBILITY AS REFTEL A PUTS IT, "IN ANY CONTEXT." REFTEL C, FOR EXAMPLE, INDICATES THAT "WE SHALL BE HAPPY TO EXPLORE WITH THE GOI THE PROSPECT OF US TECHNOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

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TO SUCH A PROJECT(A REPROCESSING PLANT), BUT THAT THIS

WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE GOI TO PURSUE WITH US AT A LATER APPROPRIATE TIME, IF IT DESIRES." WE ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE US TO "CONSTRUCTIVELY ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH SUCH A VENTURE." AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE THRUST OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH IRN ON THIS SUBJECT HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE THE POINT THAT IF IT DECIDED THAT A REPROCESSING FACILITY IN IRAN WAS DESIRABLE THAT IRAN SHOULD MAKE ITS BEST EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A MULTINATIONAL OR A BINATIONAL ENTERPRISE IN WHICH BROADER PARTICIPATION WOULD NOT BE RULED OUT. FURTHER, THE US WOULD BE AFFORDED A CONTINUING OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS IN THIS FACILITY.

2. FRANKLY, I FIND IT DIFFICULT, AND I BELIEVE THE GOI WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT AS WELL, TO CONCLUDE THAT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME WE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO BRING US TECHNOLOGY AND/OR EQUIPMENT TO A REPROCESSING FACILITY IN WHICH WE HOPED TO PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS.

3. WHILE I DO NOT HAVE YOUR LATEST THINKING ON THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PROBLEM, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ENVISAGE OUR PERSUADING THE SHAH TO TRY TO PERSUADE THE PAKS TO FOREGO THEIR PRESENT PLANS IN FAVOR OF PARTICIPATING AND/OR HAVING ACCESS TO A REPROCESSING PLANT IN IRAN IF WE DO NOT EXTEND SOME ASSURANCE THAT THE FACILITY WOULD BENEFIT FROM US TECHNOLOGY.

4. I BELIEVE I CAN UNDERSTAND THE EXTREME DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE IN MAKING ANY COMMITMENT ON THIS POINT NOW OR EVER, AND IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO DISPUTE PRESENT POLICY. I AM CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT WE NOT LEAD OUR FRIENDS HERE DOWN THE GARDEN PATH IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE NO REPERCUSSIONS WHEN THEY FIND OUT.

5. WARMEST REGARDS.  
HELMS

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NNN

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